

Buchanan Park School



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Principal: Mr. B. Playfair



Cold Weather and Outdoor Play Protocol

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. We are well aware that fresh air, exercise and time spent outside affords students an opportunity to break free from the structure of the classroom. This winter, we have tried to get outside as often as possible. It's very important for children come to school prepared for the cold. Boots, hats and mittens or gloves should be worn to school and it's a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed. As always, Principals can use their judgement in determining whether or not students remain inside during recess given the weather conditions. However, the City of Hamilton's Public Health and Community Services Department recommends individuals stay indoors when the temperature drops **below minus 15 degrees Celsius without wind chill or a wind-chill of -23 degrees**. Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board asks Principals to follow this recommendation and ensure that children are not outside when it is that cold. However, unless it gets that cold, students will be going outside to play for two 20 minute blocks every day.

(Originally Published October 2018)

Student Safety in the Parking Lot/Reporting to Office when Entering the School

As you know at HWDSB student safety is one of our utmost concerns. In order to **keep students safe around the Parking Lot**, we ask that parents dropping off, please pull over and **STAY ON THE ROAD!** There is a sidewalk just beyond (EAST of) the parking lot entrance which goes directly to the playground. Please have students get out onto this sidewalk!

Also, to keep the building secure for all students, we must ask parents to say goodbye each morning either at the entrance to the playground or, if you are coming late after your child's class line has entered the building, then at the Front Doors. We understand that a loving send off to school is important for all students and that the transition may be more difficult for some than for others, but Board policy is very clear that any adult in the building must have an ID tag on. For this reason we must ask that all parents refrain from entering the building in the morning through any other door but the Front door and that if you wish to visit in the hall, you must get a Volunteer sticker.

Driving to School? Keep our Kids Safe!

Parents and caregivers who drive to and from school play an important role in keeping our kids safe. Pedestrian and cyclist safety begins with drivers.

Follow these safe driving tips:

Slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits.

Watch for children walking or cycling both on the road and the sidewalk.

Obey the parking signs. Comply with school drop-off and pick-up procedures. **Please park in the Church Lot.** Signs will be posted there saying "Park at your own risk", but we still have permission to use it!!

Avoid double parking or stopping on crosswalks. This blocks visibility for pedestrians and other motorists.

Be alert in bad weather. Snow, rain, and fog reduce visibility for both drivers and pedestrians.

Prepare to stop for a school bus when yellow lights are flashing.

Stop for a school bus when red overhead lights flashing, regardless of the direction from which the driver is approaching. Proceed only when the school bus begins to move and the red lights stop flashing

Watch for children near bus stops. Be alert for children arriving late for the bus. They may dart into the street without looking.

Ready for a change? Think about walking your kids to school just one day a week.

Adapted from "Driving Tips Around Schools: Keeping Children Safe"

http://apps.saferoutesinfo.org/lawenforcement/resources/driving_tips.cfm

Buchanan Park School

STAND UP!
Speak Out!
Help Break the Silence!

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week was November 23-27, 2020

At Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, the Safe Schools Survey suggests that at least once a week 8 per cent (2,742) of students are physically bullied, 16 per cent (5,485) are verbally bullied, 9 per cent (3,085) are socially bullied, and 3 per cent (1,028) are targeted online or by text message. This must stop.

For this reason, HWDSB joined other Ontario school boards last week to recognize **Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week** (Nov. 23-27, 2020).

Here are some useful tips from HWDSB Social Work Services.

What can I do if my child is the victim of bullying?

- Ask your child about what happens at school
- Listen when they talk to you
- Tell the school or childcare facility immediately and partner with them to address the problem.
- Resist being overprotective.
- Encourage your child to make friends outside of school.
- Encourage your child to seek spare-time activities.
- Teach children ways to resolve arguments without violent words or actions.
- Talk about and practice assertiveness skills.
- Seek help from school social workers or psychologists via your school principal; reach children's mental health facilities by calling CONTACT Hamilton at (905) 570-8888 or info@contacthamilton.ca

What can I do if I suspect my child may be bullying others?

- Take the problem seriously.
- Talk to your child.
- Tell your child that you will not tolerate this kind of behaviour.
- Arrange for an effective, non-violent consequence.
- Establish a few family rules and stick to them.
- Spend more time with your child.
- Increase your supervision of your child's activities and friends.
- Partner with the school to address the problem.
- Limit the amount of violent television and video games to which your child is exposed.
- Seek help from school social workers or psychologists via your school principal; reach children's mental health facilities by calling CONTACT Hamilton at (905) 570-8888 or info@contacthamilton.ca

What can I do if I suspect my child may be a bystander to bullying?

- Encourage your child to empathize with the victim; step into their shoes.
- Help your child to understand that there is a difference between 'tattling' and 'reporting'.
- Accompany your child to the teacher or principal if they decide to report what they have witnessed.
- Encourage your child to mobilize his/her friends to join together to protect the victim.
- Explain to your child that bullying does not 'toughen people up' but can cause real emotional and physical harm.
- Encourage your child to find friends who value kindness and integrity.
- Behave with kindness, integrity and courage yourself, whenever you have the opportunity.
- Encourage your child when they accept responsibility for their own behaviour.

Buchanan Park School

SECURE SCHOOLS

At Buchanan Park School, we practice the "**Secure Schools Procedure**" twice during the school year. A Lockdown is used when there is a potential risk of harm to people within, or outside the school setting. Although one can never predict when a violent or potentially harmful situation may arise, schools can prepare for responding to such an incident through intentional, scheduled practices, much like what we do with Fire Drills.

We held the first of two Lockdown Practices on November 30th at 2:00 PM. The second practice will be in the Spring. The goal of the practice is to minimize the risk for staff and students during a time of crisis. In the event of a "real" lockdown, the Hamilton Police Services will be responding to the situation.

All staff, students and volunteers who are regularly in the school buildings are required to know the procedures. The students have had the Lockdown Procedures explained to them ahead of time and the school will practice this procedure a second time later this year.

The following terms and language will be used to ensure everyone is using the proper terminology.

"HOLD AND SECURE" – *Used when the school is secured due to an ongoing situation outside and not related to the school (e.g. bank robbery near a school)*

- The school continues to function normally, with the exterior doors locked until the situation is resolved
- Staff member posted at each entrance
- All movement in and out of the school is restricted
- Exterior facing windows should be covered or blinds drawn, lights dimmed, where possible
- School most likely to be notified by Hamilton Police Services

"SHELTER IN PLACE" – *Used for an environmental, or weather related situation, where it is necessary to keep all occupants within the school to protect them (May be recommended by HES-Fire). Examples may include chemical spills, blackouts, explosions or extreme weather conditions*

- People enter and remain in a building with the doors and windows closed
- Fans including heating and air conditioning units, should be turned off to prevent air from outside entering the building
- Normal operations may continue within the building

"LOCKDOWN" – *Used when there is a major incident or threat of school violence within the school, or in relation to the school*

- Threat is inside the school, or is on school property, and poses an immediate threat to the students and staff
- Follow current lockdown procedures
- All movement in and out of the school and within the school is restricted
- Doors remain open to permit police immediate entry
- The "Safe Location" for our school is the Stoney Creek Recreation Centre

The above terminology is used to ensure consistency across the province. Common language across the province allows for easy integration when staff, students and other emergency service personnel are transferred from one jurisdiction to another.

Our practice went very well and students were serious, but not alarmed at the prospect of practicing this, which is a big step. Along with this information having been presented at school, we encourage parents to talk with their children about the need to always be safe and well prepared for an emergency situation.

HWDSB

Winter Weather

Bus cancellations and school closures

How does HWDSB decide on bus cancellations and school closures?

- When bad weather is expected, Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) carriers check weather reports, road conditions and road clearing, starting as early as 4 a.m.
- Based on this information, the Director of Education makes the decision in conjunction with Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.



When do we make decisions?

HWDSB will announce the cancellation of school and board operations by 6 am based on the best information at the time.

The HWDSB Rule:

Inclement weather
+ Bus cancellation
= No school

When HWDSB cancels busing due to inclement weather, we have deemed the roads unsafe and this triggers the closure of schools. Some boards have different procedures.



= No school



What's the rule for extreme cold?

In extreme cold, buses may not start or run as expected and HWDSB may need to cancel transportation. But this **does not** automatically mean that schools will close. *In 2014, Trustees gave the Director (or designate) the discretion to keep schools open when busing is cancelled due to extreme cold.*



Where do I find cancellation information?

We will share this announcement in a variety of ways:

- The HWDSB website www.hwdsb.on.ca
- HWDSB's Twitter account www.twitter.com/HWDSB
- HWSTS website www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca
- Local media outlets:
CBC Hamilton, CHCH TV, CHML, CKPC Brantford, Hamilton Community News, Hamilton Spectator.



Families always have a choice

A school cancellation is a tough decision – and some families may disagree with HWDSB's call. Families can always make the choice they feel is best when it comes to sending their child to school.